AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A security element for an object of value, comprising:

at least one liquid-crystalline material, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light <u>and is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal, wherein the liquid-crystalline material</u>

<u>is applied all-over a metal layer with information formed by gaps, or</u>

<u>is applied all-over and is provided with a metal layer having information formed</u>

<u>by gaps above the crystalline material.</u>

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented)   The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material has a layer thickness of 100 to 1000 nanometer.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Currently Amended)   The object of value according to claim [[5]] <u>1</u>, characterized in that [[the]] <u>a</u> background is printed, is produced by inking a substrate or with the help of a laser.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the liquid-crystalline material, the background or a further layer has properties testable by at least one of machine or visually testable.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the security element is a label.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the object of value is a security paper, a security document or a product packaging.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The object of value according to claim 1, characterized in that the security element has at least one of at least one further layer producing optical effects or a protection layer, which cover at least a part of the security element.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A security element for protecting objects of value,

wherein the security element has at least one liquid-crystalline material,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the liquid-crystalline material effects a linear polarization of light and is formed by a lyotropic liquid crystal,

wherein the liquid-crystalline material is applied all-over a metal layer with information formed by gaps, or

is applied all-over and is provided with a metal layer having information formed by gaps above the crystalline material.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Previously Presented)   The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the liquid-crystalline material has a layer thickness of 100 to 1000 nanometer.

14.   (Cancelled)

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15.   (Previously Presented)   The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the carrier of the liquid-crystalline material is a birefringent foil with predetermined phase shift.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the security element has at least one of at least one further layer producing optical effects or a protection layer, which cover at least a part of the security element.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The security element according to claim 11, characterized in that the security element is a security thread, a lookthrough register or a planchet.

18-23. (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended)   The object of value of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the liquid-crystalline material is in a form of at least one of alpha numeric characters or patterns, and wherein the liquid-crystalline material affects a locally different polarization.

25.   (Currently Amended)   The security element of claim [[14]] 11 wherein the liquid-crystalline material is in a form of at least one of alpha numeric characters or patterns.

26.   (Previously Presented)   The security element of claim 15 wherein said phase shift is a quarter wave or half wave shift.